

# Teacher's Guide

## "Georgia Wildlife Journey"



### Grade Level:

K and up

### GSE Reference:

SKL1a, b; SKL2a; S1L1 b;  
S2L1a, c; S2E3 a, b; S3L1  
a, b, c; S4L1a,b,c; S5L1a;  
SEV2 d; SB5 a, b, c

### Summary:

Participants will become familiar with the characteristics and natural history of three non-releasable native Georgia wildlife, what makes them each unique, and why they are at the Chattahoochee Nature Center.

### Objective:

Participants will be able to recognize local native animals and understand the relationship with their habitat. Participants will understand ways they can help protect these native animals.

### Essential Questions

- Where do native animals find their habitat?
- Why are certain animals found in different habitats?
- What adaptations do some of our native animals have?
- What should you do if you find an injured wild animal?
- Why is it important to protect native animals?

### Vocabulary

- Habitat** - the environment in which an organism lives
- Eco-region** - an area defined by environmental conditions and natural features, its ecology
- Piedmont** - an eco-region extending along the eastern edge of the Appalachian Mountains, the "foot hills"
- Food Chain** - the transfer of food energy from a producer to consumers, linking plants and animals in their food relationships
- Wildlife** - a wild animal or plant that belongs in nature
- Native** - wildlife indigenous to an area, not imported, especially by humans
- Non-Releasable** - an animal that cannot survive on its own because of permanent injuries or imprinting

### Pre-Visit Activities

- Read** a book from the suggested reading list
- Following Food Chains** Have each student choose a predator and draw it at the top of the page with its prey at the bottom. Include as many prey items as possible.
- Raptor Research** Have the students learn about raptors native to Georgia including the Great-Horned Owl, Red-Tailed Hawk, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Barred Owl, Barn Owl.
- Get to Know our Wildlife** Visit the Chattahoochee Nature Center website ([www.chattnaturecenter.org/wildlife](http://www.chattnaturecenter.org/wildlife)) to learn about why these animals live here.

## Post visit activities

- 🔍 **Crossword Challenge** Complete the attached crossword!
- 🔍 **Search your Schoolyard** Look for any signs of Georgia wildlife—hand students magnifying glasses and go on a wildlife clue hunt. You can search for gnawed leaves and sticks, chewed pinecones, tracks, webs, nests, scat, listen for sounds, look for shelters, etc. See if you can try to identify any clues you find. What animals left these clues? Wildlife is everywhere!
- 🔍 Students can use cardboard boxes to design a model of a healthy habitat that ensures all basic needs are met for any of Georgia’s habitats—Mountains, Piedmont, or Coastal Plains. Include soils, plants, and some animals in your model.

## Suggesting Reading & Websites

### Snakes

Can Snakes Crawl Backward? by Melvin Berger

Slinky, Scaly Snakes by Jennifer Dussling

Snakes are Hunters by Patricia Lauber

Outside and Inside Snakes by Sandra Markle

Snakes of Georgia and South Carolina by Gibbons, West, and Janecek

<http://georgiawildlife.com/node/138>

<http://www.kidzone.ws/lw/snakes/facts.htm>

### Raptors

Hawks by Kathleen Deady

Raptors by Bobbie Kalman

Raptor! A Kid’s Guide to Birds of Prey by Christyna Laubach

Eagles: Birds of Prey by Adele Richardson

Owls by Diane Swanson

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen

### Opossums

Opossums by Mary Dunn

The Opossum’s Tale by Deborah Duval

Lucy: A Virginia Opossum by Bonnie Taylor

Opossum at Sycamore Road by Sally Walker

An Opossum Dilemma: Crossing the Streets at Night by Roni Patton

<http://www.opossum.org/>

<http://www.opossumsocietyus.org/opossum.html>

### Adaptations

Disguises and Surprises by Claire Llewellyn

Secrets of Animal Flight by Nic Bishop

Animal Adaptations by Frank Schaffer

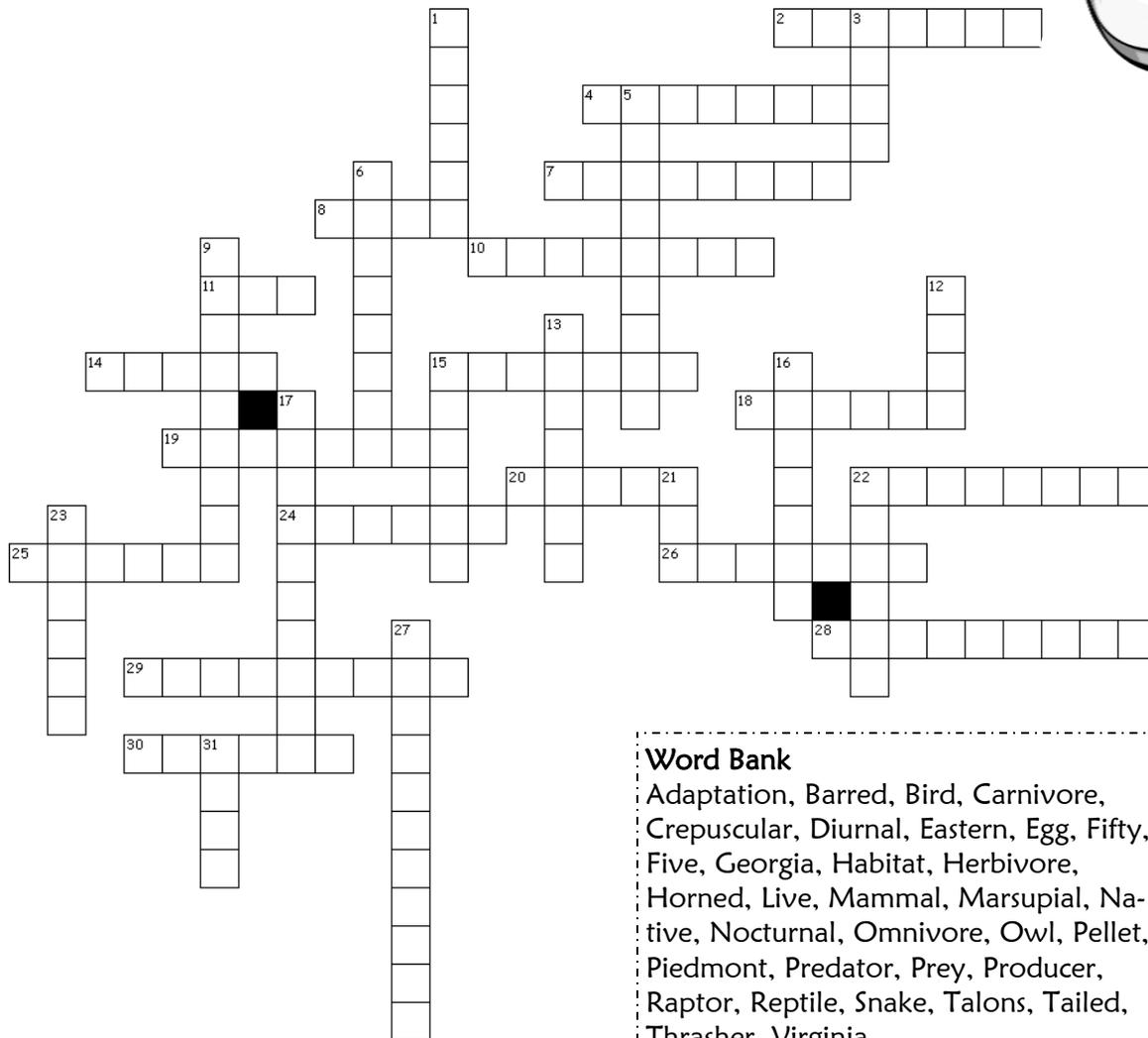
<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/ecological-adaptation/animals/6989.html>

### Georgia Habitats

P is for Peach: A Georgia Alphabet by Carol Crane

Our Georgia School: A Wildlife Habitat by Shirley Ariye

# Further Investigations!



## Word Bank

Adaptation, Barred, Bird, Carnivore, Crepuscular, Diurnal, Eastern, Egg, Fifty, Five, Georgia, Habitat, Herbivore, Horned, Live, Mammal, Marsupial, Native, Nocturnal, Omnivore, Owl, Pellet, Piedmont, Predator, Prey, Producer, Raptor, Reptile, Snake, Talons, Tailed, Thrasher, Virginia

## Across

2. An animal with dry scales.
4. The Virginia Opossum is this type of eater.
7. An opossum's first name, male or female!
8. An animal with feathers.
10. Another name for a plant.
11. A nocturnal raptor.
14. The number of teeth an opossum has.
15. Plants and animals need this.
18. Being from an area, like \_\_\_\_\_ Americans.
19. An animal that eats other animals.
20. A reptile with no limbs.
22. Georgia's state bird.
24. Made by any raptor after a meal and digestion.
25. An animal with fur or hair.
26. Atlanta is its capitol.
28. Also could be called a primary consumer.
29. An animal that does not eat plants.
30. The claws found on a raptor's foot.

## Down

1. This owl prefers a riparian, watery habitat.
3. Predator versus \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Virginia Opossum is the only \_\_\_\_\_ in North America.
6. The eco-region where Georgia's capitol is located.
9. Being active in the nighttime.
12. The number of digits on an opossum's hand.
13. Being active in the daytime.
15. Great-\_\_\_\_\_ Owl, the largest owl in Georgia
16. \_\_\_\_\_-Screech Owl, the smallest owl in Georgia.
17. Something that helps a living thing survive.
21. A bird and a reptile both make this.
22. Red-\_\_\_\_\_ Hawk, the largest hawk in Georgia
23. A carnivorous bird with sharp beak and talons.
27. Being active at dawn and dusk.
31. Mammals give \_\_\_\_\_ birth.